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EXHIBIT B

Document 15-4

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2

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So, it was about, probably, 6:30.

6:30 A.M.?

Α

Q

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1 A Yes.

2 Q How did you come to be in the area of 3 the accident?

4 A I was immediately following the truck.

5 There was a big white cube van right in front of me

6 and I followed him down from the center of Damascus.

7 At least that's where I first recognized I was

behind him and then followed him down to where the

9 | accident was.

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10 Q Okay. And as I understand it, you were
11 both travelling on Route 27 at the time of the

13 A Yes.

accident?

14 Q Do you know what direction you were 15 going?

16 A We were heading south. I was coming
17 into work.

Q Okay. Going south on Route 27, how many lanes are there? Travel lanes southbound?

A One southbound.

Q Is there a northbound lane?

- Since, at least, the center of Damascus. 1. Α I come down 27 and then Route 108 intersects and 2 then somewhere at that traffic light is where that 3 truck ended up right in front of me. 4 About how far is that in distance? 5 0 I'd say six or seven miles. 6 Α 7 MR. MANN: Okay. Let's have this marked as Deposition Exhibit Number 1. 8 (Curtis Deposition Exhibit Number 1 was 9 marked for purposes of identification.) 10 11 Let me show you a photograph of a Q vehicle that's been marked as Deposition Exhibit 12 13 Number 1. 14 Is the vehicle shown in that photograph,
 - Is the vehicle shown in that photograph, is that the same or similar to the vehicle you were following? I know it only shows the front part of the vehicle.
 - A It looks like it. I'm more familiar with the back, but yes, this looks like the vehicle.
- Q All right. What's the speed limit in the area where the accident occurred?

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- 1 A I believe it's 40 miles an hour.
- Q Okay. How fast was the truck going that you were following?
- 4 A Exactly 40 miles an hour.
- 5 Q Okay. How do you know that?
- A Rush hour traffic normally travelled a little bit faster through there. And that morning,
- 8 it was exactly 40 miles an hour. It was almost a
- 9 frustration because I usually travel a little bit
- 10 | faster than that, just going with the flow of
- 11 traffic. And it was kind of one of those things
- 12 | where, come on, get moving, get moving. It was
- 13 exactly 40.
- 14 Q So, it was a little slower than you were
- 15 used to?
- 16 A Little slower than normal, yes.
- 17 Q Okay. Tell me what you observed as you
- 18 | followed the truck immediately in the area where the
- 19 | accident occurred?
- 20 A Well, what I saw was just the back of --
- 21 | it was a white cube van, like looking at the back of

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6 recognized it as a body and a bicycle tumbling.
7 And immediately the truck in front of me

put his brakes on and pulled over to the right and I pulled over right behind him. And then all the traffic behind us just stopped. And then I noticed the northbound traffic stopped, too.

Q This object that you later realized was a bicycle and a person on it, you said was tumbling.

In what direction?

A They were headed southbound and they were going off to the side of the road.

Q Off to the right?

A Off away from the shoulder off in the grassy area.

Q In a direction to your right, then, I guess?

1 A Yes.

Q Before this happened, before you observed this object, did you have an opportunity to observe the truck and whether it was in its lane of travel?

A The truck was in its lane of travel for the whole trip. I never saw him vary or change speed or change direction, at all. He was always right down the center of his lane.

Q And, specifically, at the time that you saw this object, was the truck still in its lane?

A Yes, yes. I didn't see it move at all until the brake lights went on.

Q Until after you had seen the object moving away -- the bicycle and the rider moving away from it?

A That's correct. And then the truck driver pulled over to the right off the shoulder and I pulled in behind him.

Q Okay. What did you do after the truck pulled over?

Yes, that's correct.

Q Okay.

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(Curtis Deposition Exhibit Numbers 2-6 1 were marked for purposes of identification.) 2 Let me first show you what's been marked 3 Q 4 as Deposition Exhibits Number 2 and 3 and ask you if you recognize the roadway that's shown on that, on 5 those photographs? 6 I recognize the roadway and these are 7 patches that were put in after -- sometime after the 8 9 accident because these were open holes when we went 10 through. We'll get to that in a second, 11 Q 12 Mr. Curtis. 13 Okav. Α 14 Is this Route 27? 0 15 Yes, it is. That's heading south. Α 16 This is southbound. 0 And these 17 photographs, do they show the area where the 18 accident occurred? 19 Α Yes. 20 Do they show the area of the shoulder Q 21 where you pulled off after the accident?

right here.

Now, after you stopped and you made the call to 911, what did you then do?

> I walked back just to see the condition Α

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    of the person and see if there was anything else I
    could do. At that time, there were probably 20
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    people around, were out of their cars, all around
 4
    the person.
 5
                 When you're talking about the person,
          Q
 6
    you're talking about the bicycle rider?
 7
          Ά
                 Yes.
 8
                 Where was the bicycle rider?
          Q
 9
                 Right over in this area passed this
          Α
10
    patch. It shows leaves in here, but kind of a
11
    grassy area.
12
          Q
                 Why don't we stick with -- well, maybe
13
    we can do it on Deposition Exhibit Number 3, better.
14
                 If you could put an X approximately
15
    where he was laying after the accident?
16
          Α
                 (Witness complies.) Right about in
17
    through here.
18
                 Okay. Now, you started to tell us a
          Q.
19
    moment ago about these areas that are on the
20
    shoulder that appear to be black asphalt that's
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    different from the regular part of the shoulder?
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1 A Right.

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Q Is that how they looked at the time of the accident?

A No, no.

Q How did those areas look at the time of the accident where the black asphalt --

A What I saw was this area is like a soft patch material and the day of the accident, this was an area that was just probably a good four- to five-inch drop off into crumbled pavement.

Q And you can see that the asphalt takes up pretty much the whole shoulder. Did the depression do so, as well, to your recollection?

A Yes, right out to the white line. All this area that was patched was sunken in, like I say, crumbled pavement.

Q Okay. Based on your observation of that area, could a person ride a bicycle through the depression?

MR. BELSKY: Objection.

Q You can answer.

- 1 MR. BELSKY: You can answer. I just 2 have to do that. 3 Okav. Do I answer? Ą 4 0 Yes, you can answer that. 5 MR. BELSKY: Yes. 6 A No, no. Not easily. Not with thin 7 tires. You observed the bicycle rider laying on 8 Q 9 the ground? 10 Yes. Α 11 Can you tell me what type of clothing he 12 was wearing, what color? 13 He had dark clothing on, it looked like it was black or a very dark green. Very dark 14 15 material. He had bicycle riding type pants on. 16 They were, like, a winter type pants and he had a
- 18 But they were dark in color? Q
- 19 A They were dark in color, yes.
- 20 What was the condition of daylight at 21 the time of the incident?

Same type I wear when I bicycle ride.

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iacket.

the black area patched on the shoulder.

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Is that the

1 area where the accident occurred?

2 A Yes.

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Q Did you have any conversation whatsoever
4 with the bicycle rider?

A No, I did not.

Q Were you able to make observations as to whether he was conscious or not conscious after the accident?

A He was conscious, he was talking. He was kind of laying in almost like a fetal type position. There were so many people around him, there just wasn't room to even get close, so, I didn't try to.

Q Okay.

A He did say he was really uncomfortable and could somebody help him sit up and three or four people grabbed his shoulders and lifted him up into a sitting position to try to make him comfortable.

Q Okay. You weren't one of the people that did that?

A No, I was not. And if I had been the

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Q I understand. Did you have an opportunity to observe the person who was driving the white truck?

A Yes, I did.

Q Okay. Was he outside of his truck when you saw him?

A He was outside of his truck after I made the cell phone call. As a matter of fact, we passed each other when I went up to get the house number.

He was in a white T-shirt, white shirt type of thing, I can't remember whether there was lettering on it or not. And it was chilly that morning and I know he was just shaking, because it was cold, and he seemed to be really confused.

Q Confused as in shock or --

A It seemed like he was in shock because he just kept, kind of, babbling and saying, you know, I hit the guy. I don't know what happened. I must have run off the road and hit him. All kinds of things. And things contrary to whatever I

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thought you should do if you were in an accident,
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 2
    which is admit any kind of quilt. I really felt bad
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    for the guy because he really did look very, very
 4
    confused.
 5
                Well, you observed his truck prior to
          Q
 6
    the accident, correct?
 7
                 Yes, I did.
          Α
                 Did he go off the road?
 8
          ·O
 9
          Α
                No, he did not. I never saw him go out
10
    of his lane or vary at all. Just straight as an
11
    arrow.
12
          Q
                A police officer came to the scene of
13
    the accident?
14
                 There was an off-duty police officer, a
          Α
    female officer, that was a few vehicles somewhere
15
16
    behind me.
                I'm not sure, four or five vehicles
17
    down. And that was the first police officer I
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talked to.

- 1 talked to another person who was right behind me and
- 2 | a uniformed officer showed up little bit later,
- 3 probably another 10 to 15 minutes after that. And
- 4 that's the person that took my statement at the
- 5 scene.
- 6 Q That's what I was going to ask you. You
- 7 | did identify yourself to the police officer?
- 8 A Yes, I did.
- 9 Q As a witness to the accident?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q And told them what you had seen?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q Just one more question. Prior to -- I
- 14 know at some point you saw the bicycle and the rider
- 15 going to the right?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q At any point prior to that time did you
- 18 | see the bicycle rider?
- 19 A No. No, I did not.
- MR. MANN: Those are all the questions I
- 21 | have. Thank you, Mr. Curtis. Mr. Belsky may have

1 some. 2 I have a few. MR. BELSKY: EXAMINATION BY MR. BELSKY: 3 4 As I understand, you have given 5 statements to various investigators in this case; is 6 that correct? 7 There was another person who Yes. 8 called me more than a year ago and asked me some 9 questions. 10 And then somebody came recently and 11 asked you some questions? . And then someone else had called me that 12 Ά was a reconstruction type person is the way they 13 14 described themselves and asked about the road and 15 what I had seen. Now, to begin with, and I'll probably be 16 Q 17 rehashing a lot of things that have already been 18 asked and I apologize, but I just want to get my own 19 head straight. 20 Α Okay. 21 It was dark out at that time, is that

1 | correct?

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2 A Yes.

Q Was there any distractions on the road that you could see?

A Nothing that I could see.

Q The driver indicated that he was distracted, took his eyes off the road for a moment, and the next thing he knows the bicycle was in front of him, or, he hit the bicycle.

Was there anything that you could see that would have distracted him?

MR. MANN: I'm going to object to the form of the question. You can answer.

A Nothing that I could see.

Q Did you beep your horn, by chance?

A No.

Q Did you speak to the driver of the vehicle?

A The only thing I mentioned was that he looked like he was cold. I just said, how are you doing? Because he looked very shaken.

- 1 Q Okay.
- A Just trying to calm down. The police

 officer was there right away talking to him and that

 was all I did, was just made an initial exchange

 because the guy really looked like he was really,
- 5 | because the guy really looked like he was really, 6 | really shaken.
- 7 Q You indicated he said he must have gone 8 off the side of the road. Is that what he said?
- 9 A Yeah.
- 10 Q Who did he say that to?
- A He was just kind of talking and I was
 there and there was a couple other people around.
- 13 Q And did you look at the bicycle at all?
- A No, I didn't go over and look at it. It
 was off to the side of the road, but I didn't go
- 16 over and take a real close look at it.
- 17 Q Had you ever seen this bicycle rider 18 before?
- 19 A Yes, just about everyday for a number of 20 years riding down this road.
- 21 Q So, he drives his bike?

lot of highways besides 27.

- I'm talking about 27. Q
- Down there, I've probably been down Α

19

20

- 1 there maybe a dozen times over, you know, a couple
 2 years' time in that particular area.
- Q When was the last time you were on 27 before this accident?
- 5 A During the summertime. Summer before 6 that.
- 7 Q So, this accident happened on 8 November 16th.
- 9 MR. MANN: January 16th.
- 10 Q I'm sorry, January 16th. And it had
 11 been at least five or six months --
- 12 A Probably around the August, September 13 timeframe.
 - Q You indicated this was a broken up soft patch in this area. Was that your recollection from six months ago or was there some other moment where you looked at it in between the last time that you rode your bicycle?
 - A Everyday when I drove by I could see it was broken up. As a matter of fact, there were two spots that were crumbled. There was one another

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, 1	hundred yar	ds before that on the right-hand side of
2	the road.	
3	Q	Did you ever drive your bike over those
4	spots?	
5	Ą	With the broken pavement?
6	Q	Yes.
7	A	No.
. 8	Q ·	Did you ever drive when there was broken
9	pavement th	ere?
10	А	I wouldn't drive over broken pavement
11	because you	can't keep a bicycle upright driving on
12	broken pave	ment.
13	, Q	Did you ever go passed that area on your
14	bicycle?	
15	A	Yes, I've been down 27 on my bicycle.
16	Q	What would you do when you get to those
17	patches?	
18	A	Drive around them.
19	Q	Which side would you drive on?
20	А	The only side that you can take a

bicycle on, which, my estimation is, would be on the

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    left-hand side. Because the right-hand side was
 2
    dirt.
                 Did you inspect the vehicle at all after
 3
    the accident?
 4
 5
                 No, I did not.
          Α
 6
                 Did you see any damage to the vehicle at
          Q
 7
    all?
 8
                 No, I did notice any at all.
          A
 9
          Q:
                When you say it stayed in its lane, I
10
    mean, cars don't always stay in the exact middle of
11
    the lane. Did you ever notice it may have gone a
12
    little to the right, a little to the left and still
13
    stay in its lane?
14
          Α
                 No, I didn't notice --
15
                 Would you have noticed that?
          Q
16
                 MR. MANN: Wait a minute. Could he
17
    finish that answer?
18
                MR. BELSKY: I apologize.
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                MR. MANN: Would you say that answer
20
    again? I don't think she got it.
21
                               I didn't notice him
                 THE WITNESS:
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- wandering or moving at all. He was well within the
 line. What I mean is, I didn't see him drifting
 back and forth within the lines.
 - Q Would you have noticed if he got within, say, two or three inches of the line?
 - A Since I was directly behind him, I think
 I would have noticed if he had moved one way or the
 other, yes.
- 9 Q If I told you at his deposition he said
 10 the only damage to his vehicle was to the mirror
 11 which hangs approximately six inches off his car,
 12 can you explain why that would be the only damage to
 13 the vehicle?
 - MR. MANN: Objection.
- 15 Q If you know.
- MR. MANN: You can answer that, if you can.
 - A I have no idea.
- 19 Q At what distance, assuming -- well, how 20 many vehicles were in front of the truck that 21 ultimately hit him?

1	A The only time I saw vehicles in front of
2	the truck was when we were coming down the hill and
3	there is always when you drive 27 in the morning .
4	there is always taillights as far as you can see.
5	It's always pretty much one car behind another and
6	do pretty much the speed limit out there. Usually
7	little more, usually 45 to 50 miles an hour.
8	Q Did you ever see the truck take any
9	evasive action to avoid hitting that bicycle?
10	A The first thing I noticed is when I
11	noticed the object on the right and the brake lights
12	were going on he and was pulling over to the right
13	and stopped. He pulled off the road. That's the
14	first time I notice him move.
15	Q So, my understanding is you never saw
16	where the bike was at the time of the impact?
17	A No, I did not. No.
18	Q And you indicated that he was wearing
19	dark clothes, but with his reflective gear, would
20	that be adequate to see somebody?
21	MR. MANN: Objection. You can answer.

- A If he had reflective gear, you say?
 - Q You have seen him every morning.
- A I see him in the morning, yeah, and what I always noticed was he had a little flashing light on his saddle bag on the back of his bike. I didn't really notice any on the clothing.
 - Q Had you ever had any problem seeing him?
 - A No. No, I never have.

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- Q At approximately what distance would you see him 6:30 in the morning?
- A If you weren't right behind someone, you could probably see him from, I would say, 50 to 100 feet, easily.
- Q In your prior experience with this particular bike driver, did he ever -- did you ever notice that he did anything in a dangerous fashion?
 - MR. MANN: Objection. You can answer.
- A I always saw him riding on the right-hand side of the road off on the shoulder.
- Q How far behind the truck were you when you saw him put his brake lights on?

Case 1:02-cv-02084-MJG Document 15-4 Filed 03/14/2003 Page 34 of 37 1 Two to three car lengths. Α 2 That's all I have. MR. BELSKY: 3 you. 4 MR. MANN: Just one more thing. 5 EXAMINATION BY MR. MANN: At the time during the rush hour, was 6 0 7 there rush hour traffic coming north on Route 27, 8 also? 9 Very little. Α 10 MR. MANN: No other questions. Thank 11 you, Mr. Curtis. 12 MR. BELSKY: Thank you, again. Now, as a witness who has 13 MR. MANN: 14 been deposed, this lady is going to take down all 15 the questions and the answers, and as a witness, you 16 have a right under the rules to read and sign it, 17 the transcript, after you review it. Not to change 18 anything you have said, but it's more or less if she 19 misheard something or something like that. 20 Witnesses can, and often do, waive that

right because there is some inconvenience and you

1 still would get a chance to read the transcript, but 2 the question is whether you want to insist on the 3 right to read it. 4 These court reporters are very accurate, 5 but if you want to read it and sign it, you can do so or you can waive that and you will still get a 6 chance to read it. 7 8 THE WITNESS: Right. MR. MANN: But it's up to you as a 9 10 witness. 11 (A discussion was held off the record.) 12 THE WITNESS: Okay, I'll waive. 13 (Deposition was concluded at 3:20p.m.) 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

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1
    State of Maryland
 2
    City of Baltimore, to wit:
              I, SUSAN M. LIEBRECHT, a Notary Public
 3
    of the Sta te of Maryland, Carroll County, do
 4
    hereby certify that the within-named witness
 5
 6
    personally appeared before me at the time and
    place herein set out, and after having been duly
 7
    sworn by me, according to law, was examined by
 8
 9
    counsel.
10
                 I further certify that the examination
11
    was recorded stenographically by me and this
    transcript is a true record of the proceedings.
12
13
                 I further certify that I am not of
14
    counsel to any of the parties, nor in any way
15
    interested in the outcome of this action.
16
                As witness my hand and notarial seal
    this 16th day of January, 2003.
17
18
                               SUSAN M. LIEBRECHT
19
                               Notary Public
20
    My Commission Expires:
21
    September 1, 2005
```